

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

RENE' D. EDWARDS,

1:17-cv-7229 (NLH/KMW)

Plaintiff,

MEMORANDUM

v.

OPINION & ORDER

NATASHA GRANT, GIBBSBORO
REALTY, LLC, and MITCH
MORRISON,

Defendants.

APPEARANCES:

RENE' D. EDWARDS
411 EAST GIBBSBORO ROAD
APT 110
LINDENWOLD, NJ 08021
Appearing pro se

HILLMAN, District Judge

WHEREAS Plaintiff Rene' D. Edwards, appearing pro se, filed a complaint on September 18, 2017 against Natasha Grant, Gibbsboro Realty, LLC, and Mitch Morrison; and

WHEREAS Plaintiff claims he was subject to discrimination, cruel treatment, and mental and emotional stress; and

WHEREAS Plaintiff has filed an application to proceed without prepayment of fees ("in forma pauperis" or "IFP" application), and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1), a court may allow a litigant to proceed without prepayment of fees if he

submits a proper IFP application; and

WHEREAS, although § 1915 refers to “prisoners,” federal courts apply § 1915 to non-prisoner IFP applications, Hickson v. Mauro, No. 11-6304, 2011 WL 6001088, at *1 (D.N.J. Nov. 30, 2011) (citing Lister v. Dep’t of Treasury, 408 F.3d 1309, 1312 (10th Cir. 2005)); Lister, 408 F.3d at 1312 (“Section 1915(a) applies to all persons applying for IFP status, and not just to prisoners.”); and

WHEREAS the screening provisions of the IFP statute require a federal court to dismiss an action sua sponte if, among other things, the action is frivolous or malicious, or if it fails to comply with the proper pleading standards, see 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i)-(iii); Ball v. Famiglio, 726 F.3d 448, 452 (3d Cir. 2013); Martin v. U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Security, No. 17-3129, 2017 WL 3783702, at *1 (D.N.J. Aug. 30, 2017) (“Federal law requires this Court to screen Plaintiff's Complaint for sua sponte dismissal prior to service, and to dismiss any claim if that claim fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6) and/or to dismiss any defendant who is immune from suit.”); and

WHEREAS pro se complaints must be construed liberally, and all reasonable latitude must be afforded the pro se litigant, Estelle v. Gamble, 429 U.S. 97, 107 (1976), but pro se litigants “must still plead the essential elements of [their] claim and

[are] not excused from conforming to the standard rules of civil procedure," McNeil v. United States, 508 U.S. 106, 113 (1993) ("[W]e have never suggested that procedural rules in ordinary civil litigation should be interpreted so as to excuse mistakes by those who proceed without counsel."); Sykes v. Blockbuster Video, 205 F. App'x 961, 963 (3d Cir. 2006) (finding that pro se plaintiffs are expected to comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure); and

WHEREAS Plaintiff alleges Defendants acted unprofessionally and did not properly communicate with tenants, among other broad complaints, but fails to provide basic facts as to how Defendants caused Plaintiff injury, see generally Baldwin Cty. Welcome Ctr. v. Brown, 466 U.S. 147, 149-50 n.3 (1984) ("Although the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure do not require a claimant to set forth an intricately detailed description of the asserted basis for relief, they do require that the pleadings 'give defendant fair notice of what the plaintiff's claim is and the grounds upon which it rests.'" (quoting Conley v. Gibson, 355 U.S. 41, 47 (1957))); and

WHEREAS Plaintiff further claims several criminal acts by Defendants, which this Court cannot resolve in this civil action; and

WHEREAS the Court therefore finds Plaintiff's complaint is deficient; and

THEREFORE,

IT IS on this 6th day of February, 2018

ORDERED that Plaintiff's IFP application (Docket No. 1-1) is hereby **GRANTED**, and the Clerk is directed to file Plaintiff's complaint; and it is further

ORDERED that Plaintiff's complaint is **DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE** in its entirety; and it is further

ORDERED that Plaintiff may move to reopen his case within twenty days from the date of this Order, attaching to any such motion a proposed amended complaint¹ which addresses the deficiencies of the original complaint as described herein; and it is further

ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court shall mark this case **CLOSED**.

At Camden, New Jersey

s/ Noel L. Hillman
NOEL L. HILLMAN, U.S.D.J.

¹ When an amended complaint is filed, it supersedes the original and renders it of no legal effect, unless the amended complaint specifically refers to or adopts the earlier pleading. See W. Run Student Housing Assocs., LLC v. Huntington Nat'l Bank, 712 F.3d 165, 171 (3d Cir. 2013); see also 6 Charles Alan Wright & Arthur R. Miller, Federal Practice and Procedure § 1476 (3d ed. 2008). To avoid confusion, the safer practice is to submit an amended complaint that is complete in itself. Id.